

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An input unit comprising:

an instruction input unit including a display part, a posture of said instruction input unit capable of being displaced by a pressure applied to a first face thereof including a display screen of said display part;

a switch pressing unit provided in the vicinity of an outer periphery of a face other than said first face of said instruction input unit, said switch pressing unit being capable of being displaced in accordance with the displacement of the instruction input unit; and

a switch part arranged to work by being pressed by said switch pressing unit,

said switch part comprising a plurality of switches,

wherein said display part displays information related to an operation state of an apparatus used together with said input unit, said display part further displaying plural pieces of information indicating a function of each switch in an area provided in the vicinity of each switch,

wherein the apparatus used together with the input unit has a mode switch for setting an operation mode, and the display part displays information related to a first operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the first operation mode when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second

operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.

2. (original): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instruction input unit presses said switch part via said switch pressing unit by being displaced around a position in the vicinity of a center of gravity thereof as a displacement center in a direction perpendicular to a face on which said switch part is provided.

3. (previously presented): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of switches of said switch part are arranged to form at least one pair, said switches of each of said at least one pair being opposed to each other with a displacement center sandwiched therebetween.

4. (previously presented): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of switches of said switch part are arranged substantially at an upper position, a lower position, a right position and a left position with respect to a displacement center.

5. (previously presented): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display part is arranged to display information related to functions assigned to said plurality of switches included in said switch part in the vicinity of said switches, respectively.

6. (canceled).

7. (original): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display part is arranged to display one of a plurality of background colors that is determined in accordance with an operation state of an apparatus used together with said input unit.

8. (withdrawn/previously presented): An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first face is inclined with respect to a reference face on which said switch pressing unit is in contact with a body of said apparatus.

9. (currently amended): A digital camera, comprising:

- an image capturing unit;
- a controlling unit that controls the image capturing unit;
- a processing circuit that processes signals from the image capturing unit;
- a display unit; and
- an operating unit that accepts user input and includes an input unit, said input unit comprising:
 - an instruction input unit including a display part, a posture of said instruction input unit capable of being displaced by a pressure applied to a first face thereof including a display screen of said display part;

a switch pressing unit provided in the vicinity of an outer periphery of a face other than said first face of said instruction input unit, said switch pressing unit being capable of being displaced in accordance with the displacement of the instruction input unit; and

a switch part arranged to work by being pressed by said switch pressing unit,

said switch part comprising a plurality of switches,

wherein said display part displays information related to an operation state of an apparatus used together with said input unit, said display part further displaying plural pieces of information indicating a function of each switch in an area provided in the vicinity of each switch,

wherein the apparatus used together with the input unit has a mode switch for setting an operation mode, and the display part displays information related to a first operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the first operation mode when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.

10. (withdrawn): An input unit for inputting an instruction to an apparatus, including a switch pressing unit formed by a loop of a plurality of buttons and connection parts operable to connect said buttons to each other.

11. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a display part arranged inside of a periphery of said switch pressing unit.

12. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a switch unit including a plurality of switches that are arranged to work by being pressed by said buttons of said switch pressing unit.

13. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein said display part displays information related to functions assigned to said switches in the vicinity of said buttons respectively corresponding to said switches.

14. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein said plurality of buttons are arranged to form at least one pair, said buttons of each of said at least one pair being substantially opposed to each other with a portion approximately at a center of said switch pressing unit sandwiched therebetween.

15. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein said plurality of buttons are arranged at an upper position, a lower position, a right position and a left position with respect to a center of said switch pressing unit, and said buttons arranged at said upper and lower positions are larger than those arranged at said right and left positions.

16. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein said buttons are arranged to press said switches by rotating around a part of said connection parts towards outside of said switch pressing unit.

17. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a first face that is in contact with upper faces of said buttons is inclined with respect to a reference face on which said switch pressing unit is in contact with a body of said apparatus.

18. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 17, wherein an angle between said first face and said reference face is larger than 0 degree but does not exceed 10 degrees.

19. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 17, wherein a maximum inclination direction of said first face is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of said reference face.

20. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 19, wherein an angle of said maximum inclination direction of said first face with respect to said vertical direction exceeds 0 degree but does not exceed 45 degrees.

21. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a level of one of said buttons at said upper position with respect to the center of said switch pressing unit is different

from a level of one of said buttons at said lower position with respect to the center of said switch pressing unit, when said input unit is used while being provided to said apparatus.

22. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein a second face including a display screen of said display part is inclined with respect to a reference face that is in contact with a body face of said apparatus on which said input unit is provided.

23. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 21, wherein an angle between said second face and said reference face is larger than 0 degree and equal to or less than 10 degrees.

24. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 21, wherein a maximum inclination direction of said second face is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of said reference face.

25. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 24, wherein an angle of said maximum inclination direction of said second face with respect to said vertical direction exceeds 0 degree but does not exceed 45 degrees.

26. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein a third face that is in contact with said plurality of switches is inclined with respect to a reference face that is in contact with a body face of said apparatus on which said input unit is provided.

27. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 26, wherein an angle between said third face and said reference face is larger than 0 degree but does not exceed 10 degrees.

28. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 26, wherein a maximum inclination direction of said third face is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of said reference face.

29. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 28, wherein an angle of said maximum inclination direction of said third face with respect to said vertical direction exceeds 0 degree but does not exceed 45 degrees.

30. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a cover operable to fix said switch pressing unit to a body of said apparatus,

wherein a fourth face that is in contact with an upper face of said cover is inclined to a reference face that is in contact

with a body face of said apparatus on which said input unit is provided.

31. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 30, wherein an angle between said fourth face and said reference face is larger than 0 degree and equal to or less than 10 degrees.

32. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 30, wherein a maximum inclination direction of said fourth face is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of said reference face.

33. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 32, wherein an angle of said maximum inclination direction of said fourth face with respect to said vertical direction exceeds 0 degree but does not exceed 45 degrees.

34. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a protection glass part arranged to cover said display part,

wherein a fifth face including a surface of said protection glass part is inclined with respect to a reference face that is in contact with a body face of said apparatus on which said input unit is provided.

35. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein an angle between said fifth face and said reference face is larger than 0 degree but does not exceed 10 degrees.

36. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein a maximum inclination direction of said fifth face is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of said reference face.

37. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 36, wherein an angle of said maximum inclination direction of said fifth face with respect to said vertical direction exceeds 0 degree but does not exceed 45 degrees.

38. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a direction connecting ones of said buttons arranged at upper and lower positions with respect to a center region of said switch pressing unit is inclined with respect to a vertical direction of said apparatus within a plane of a reference face that is in contact with a body face of said apparatus on which said input unit is provided.

39. (withdrawn): An input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein said switch unit is arranged in the vicinity of said display part and said switch pressing unit.

40. (withdrawn): An input unit for inputting an instruction to a capturing apparatus for capturing an image, comprising: a plurality of switches;

a mode switch for setting an operation mode of the capturing apparatus;

a release switch for instructing capturing said image to the apparatus;

a connector operable to transmit signals from said switches, said mode switch, and said release switch; and

a flexible wiring substrate operable to electrically connect said switches, said mode switch and said release switch to said connector.

41. (currently amended): A capturing apparatus for capturing an image, comprising:
a body having a body face; and

a switch unit disposed on said body and comprising a display part including a display screen and a plurality of switches arranged in surroundings of said display part, said switch unit being inclined together with said display part and said plurality of switches with respect to a plane of said body face, when at least one of the plurality of switches is pressed to function,

wherein the apparatus used together with the switch unit has a mode switch for setting an operation mode, and the display part displays information related to a first operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the first operation mode when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.

42. (currently amended): A capturing apparatus for capturing an image, comprising:
a body having a body face; and

a switch unit disposed on said body and comprising a display part including a display screen and at least one switch arranged in surroundings of said display part, said switch unit being inclined together with said display part and said switch with respect to a plane of said body face, when said switch is pressed to function,

wherein the apparatus used together with the switch unit has a mode switch for setting an operation mode, and the display part displays information related to a first operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the first operation mode when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.

43. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, further comprising a second input unit including a first button and a plurality of second buttons arranged in surroundings of said first button,

wherein shapes of said plurality of second buttons are different from each other.

44. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 43, further comprising a display unit operable to display said image,

wherein said first button includes a power switch operable to turn on/off a power of said capturing apparatus,

wherein said second buttons include:

a cancel button having a cancel function assigned thereto and being provided in the vicinity of said input unit;

an execution button having an execution function assigned thereto and being provided in the vicinity of said input unit;

a display button, provided in the vicinity of said display unit, operable to turn on/off a display by said display unit; and

a shift button operable to change functions assigned to said buttons of said input unit, wherein said cancel button, said execution button, said display button and said shift button have shapes different from each other.

45. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein areas of surfaces of said cancel button and said execution button are larger than areas of surfaces of said display button and said shift button.

46. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said shift button has one of a convex shape and a concave shape, while said display button has the other shape.

47. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said input unit, and said display unit or said second input unit are arranged on the same body face of said capturing apparatus.

48. (previously presented): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein an input unit is arranged on an upper-right side of a center of a face of said capturing apparatus that faces a user when being used.

49. (withdrawn/previously presented): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein an input unit is arranged on an upper-left side of a center of a face of said capturing apparatus that faces a user when being used.

50. (previously presented): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein said display part have at least one of a function of displaying information related to functions assigned to said switches in the vicinity of said display part respectively corresponding to said switches and a function of displaying information related to an operation state of said capturing apparatus.

51. (original): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein said display part is arranged to display one selected from a plurality of background color, and said selected one background color when said capturing apparatus is in a recording state is different from that when said capturing apparatus is in a playback state.

52. (currently amended): A capturing apparatus for capturing an image, comprising:
an input unit including a first display unit operable to display a first displayed information and a plurality of switches arranged in the vicinity of an outer periphery of a display of the first display unit to form at least one pair, said switches of each of said at least one pair being opposed to each other with said first display unit sandwiched therebetween; and

a second display unit disposed separately from the first display unit on a different place on the capturing apparatus than the first display unit, wherein

said first displayed information includes information indicating functions assigned to said plurality of switches, and a means is provided for incorporating at least a part of said first displayed information, including said functions, into said second display unit, said first displayed information being changed in accordance with a change of the operation mode of the capturing apparatus, and

said at least one pair of switches being mechanical switches,

wherein the apparatus used together with the input unit has a mode switch for setting an operation mode, and the first display unit displays information related to a first operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the first operation mode when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second operation mode and information related to a function of each switch in the second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.

53. (original): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said input unit is arranged on an upper-right side of a center of a face of said capturing apparatus that faces a user when said capturing apparatus is used, and

said second display unit is arranged to display said first display information when one of said switches arranged at an upper position or a left position with respect to said first display unit is operated.

54. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, further comprising a sensor part operable of sensing that at least a part of said first display unit is hidden, wherein said second display unit is arranged to display said first displayed information when said sensor part senses that said first display unit is hidden.

55. (previously presented): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said switches are arranged approximately at an upper position, a lower position, a right position and a left position with respect to said first display unit.

56. (previously presented): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said input unit and said second display unit are arranged on the same plane of a body face of said capturing apparatus.

57. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first displayed information further includes information obtained by magnifying a specified part of said second displayed information.

58. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 57, further comprising a means for assigning a function of moving said specified part to said switches.

59. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein said second displayed information includes map information, and said first displayed information further includes detailed information of a specified part of said map information.

60. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 59, further comprising a means for assigning a function of moving said specified part in said map information to said switches.

61. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, further comprising a recording unit operable to store said image, wherein

said second displayed information includes one of said image stored in said recording unit and a thumbnail image of said image, and said first displayed information includes the other of said image and said thumbnail image.

62. (withdrawn): A capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 61, further comprising a means for assigning a function of displaying said image corresponding to said thumbnail image to said switches.

63. (previously presented): The capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein said display part is arranged to display information related to an operation state of an apparatus used together with said switch unit, and

wherein the information displayed on said display part indicates a function of the pressed switch .

64. (previously presented): The capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein said display part is arranged to display information related to an operation state of an apparatus used together with said switch unit, and

wherein the information displayed on said display part indicates a function of the pressed switch .

65. (previously presented): The capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, further comprising:

a body on which the first display unit and the second display unit are arranged independently.

66. (previously presented): The input unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first face is configured to pivot around said displacement center when said instruction input unit is pressed.

67. (previously presented): The input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information related to the operation state of the apparatus used together with said input unit and the plural pieces of information indicating the function of each switch are changed in accordance with operation state of the apparatus used together with said input unit.

68. (previously presented): The digital camera as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information related to the operation state of the digital camera and the plural pieces of information indicating the function of each switch are changed in accordance with operation state of the digital camera.

69. (previously presented): The capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein said display screen is capable of inclining to a plurality of directions corresponding to said plurality of switches, and at least one of said plurality of switches functions according to the direction to which said display screen inclines.

70. (previously presented): The capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein said switch unit includes a plurality of switches, said display screen is capable of inclining to a plurality of directions corresponding to said plurality of switches, and at least one of said plurality of switches functions according to the direction to which said display screen inclines.